

HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1970

OF THE

Medical Officer

OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC

Health Officer

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Medical Officer of Health

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*Also Medical Officer of Health, Halstead Rural District Council
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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health Officer

HAROLD NIELD

F.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Incorporated Public Health Engineer

Also Public Health Officer, Halstead Rural District Council

Deputy Public Health Officer BRIAN A. J. TURNER
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

District Public Health Inspectors BERNARD J. DAVIES
D.R.S.H.
(to 31.5.70)
GEOFFREY CUSDEN
M.A.P.H.I.
(to 14.6.70)
JOHN R. TANSWELL
M.A.P.H.I.
(from 20.7.70)

Technical Assistant SYDNEY B. SAWARD
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Chief Clerk MICHAEL A. FAULDER
(from 12.1.70)

Clerical Assistant Mrs. JEAN G. GAYWOOD

Clerk Typist Mrs. ANN P. WILKS

Pupil Public Health Inspector Vacant

Part-time Rodent Operator FRANK ANDREWS

Also Part-time Rodent Operator
Halstead Rural District Council
Braintree Urban District Council
Braintree Rural District Council &
Witham Urban District Council

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for 1970.

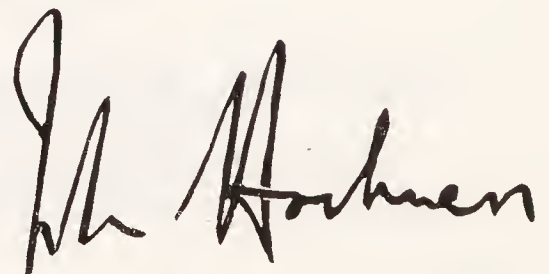
Vital Statistics

The estimated population is 7,160 and there were 123 live births, giving a birth rate of 18·2, which is above that of England and Wales. Nationally the birth rate has declined from a peak of 18·5 in 1964 to 16·0 in 1970, but the rate in Halstead has remained higher. It is difficult to draw firm conclusions from such a small population, but the high rate augers well for the growth of Halstead even though it produces problems later in relation to the increased accommodation necessary in schools.

The death rate of 11·6 per 1,000 of the population compares with 11·7 for England and Wales. Again the main causes of deaths were ischaemic heart disease, malignant neoplasms and cerebro-vascular disease.

Infectious Diseases

There were 47 cases of measles notified during the year. It was disappointing that this number should have occurred when an effective vaccine has been available for two years. However, the suspension of the use of one type of vaccine in 1969 led to a temporary shortage of vaccine and when more vaccine became available the rate of immunisation was insufficient to provide protection for all susceptible children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Hockman', written in a cursive style.

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

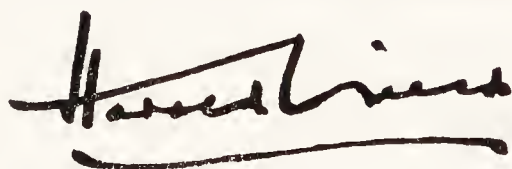
I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the environmental health services provided by your Public Health Inspectors during 1970.

Following its customary form it is essentially a record of your Public Health Inspectors' work to maintain and improve environmental health standards. It also indicates problems which still have to be overcome, and therefore should be a stimulus for further action. I hope that it emphasises that we should complain far more often than we do about unsatisfactory environmental health conditions when we find them, and we should not leave everything to the Public Health Inspector to deal with when he is able to make routine visits.

On 15th October, 1970 the Prime Minister announced the formation of the Department of the Environment from the Ministries of Housing and Local Government, Transport and Public Building and Works. The Right Hon. Peter Walker, as Secretary of State for the Environment, also took personal charge of the Department's co-ordinating work on environmental pollution. The scope of the new Department is wide and the reorganisation logical, in view of the importance attached by the Government to environmental problems and the need for them to be dealt with in a comprehensive and co-ordinated way.

Shortage of staff during the year, as was also the case in 1969, again seriously affected the work of the Department. The services of one Public Health Inspector and one Pupil Public Health Inspector were lacking during the whole year, and the illness of the Public Health Inspector culminated in his premature retirement on medical grounds. There was also lengthy absence on account of illness of two other Public Health Inspectors.

This report once again provides me with the pleasurable opportunity of recording my thanks to the staff for their willing, loyal and efficient assistance, and to my colleagues in other departments for their courteous and helpful co-operation throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Harold Green', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Health Officer

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	1,232
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	7,160
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1970) according to the Rate Books	2,925
Rateable Value	£277,351
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,038

Live Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	121	68	53
Illegitimate	2	2	0
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population			17·2
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor of 1·06)			18·2
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			16·0

Still Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			—
Total births (live and still)			123

Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	24
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	25
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	—
Neo-natal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	16
Early neo-natal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	16
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and first week) per 1,000 live and still births	16
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	2
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	—

Deaths:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths	99	60	39
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population			13·8
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor of 0·84)			11·6
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			11·7

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1970

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	0	0
Tuberculosis (other)	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc.	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	0
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	0
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	3
Other malignant neoplasms	4	5
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	0	1
Diabetes mellitus	0	1
Other diseases of the nervous system	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	0	0
Hypertensive disease	1	2
Ischaemic heart disease	13	10
Other forms of heart disease	7	0
Coronary disease, angina	0	0
Cerebrovascular disease	7	3
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	3
Influenza	1	0
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	0
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
Other diseases of digestive system	1	0
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital anomalies	0	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined conditions	0	0
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
All other accidents	0	0
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Totals ..	60	39

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis	0	0	0
Measles	47	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Totals ..	48	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases notified: 0

Transfer from other Districts: 0

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 0

1. FOOD

Food supplies control and food hygiene work generally formed an appreciable proportion of your Public Health Inspectors' duties. It is stressed that the number of food complaints shown in the report does not reflect the true extent of the problems involved. The co-operation of the public in bringing unsatisfactory circumstances to the notice of your Public Health Inspectors is most important, and reticence in making official complaints continues to hinder progress in this matter. Unfortunately, most housewives in particular seem concerned only with the price of food and not the hygienic conditions under which it is sold.

Some proprietors of food preparation premises, shops, restaurants, etc., did not seem to realise that the existence of unhygienic conditions is an offence against the Food Hygiene Regulations and renders them liable to prosecution without warning. They were apt to consider that all they are required to do is remedy unsatisfactory conditions found during routine inspection by Public Health Inspectors.

During the year there was considerable national press publicity about the coding of perishable foods, the use of open date-stamping and allegations that some van delivery salesmen take back unsold food from retailers and re-sell it to others.

There were also problems with mobile food traders in that they often operated in the evenings and at week-ends, mainly on housing estates or in country areas, and these traders were not easy to trace. Registration of the vehicle, the operator and the premises from which the vehicle trades could be of value.

(a) Food, Food Hygiene and Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors of the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Having wash hand basin with hot and cold water (Reg. 16)	Having sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)	Required to have sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)
Bakehouses	2	1	2	2	2
Bread and Confectioners	3	2	2	2	3
Bread Distribution Depots	0	0	0	0	0
Dairies and Milk Distributors	6	0	5	5	6
Egg Packing and Liquid Egg Preparation Premises	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers	4	5	4	4	4
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	1	1	1	1	1
General Provisions Shops	17	10	12	16	17
Greengrocers	3	3	3	3	3
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	21	0	14	20	0
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	5	0	4	5	5
Meat Shops	9	4	8	9	9
Poultry Processing Premises	0	0	0	0	0
Public Houses and Inns	20	5	7	20	20
Restaurants and Cafes	5	10	5	5	5
School Kitchens	5	0	5	5	5
Slaughterhouses	1	158	1	1	1
Social Clubs	3	3	3	3	3
Street Vendors	—	16	—	—	—
Sweet Confectioners	3	2	3	3	3
Works Canteens	3	0	3	3	3
Miscellaneous	6	5	4	5	3
Totals	117	225	86	112	93

Food premises fully surveyed	..	..	..	..	1
Food poisoning investigations	..	..	..	..	0
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	4
Food premises improved	..	..	..	..	6
Food vehicles improved	..	..	..	..	0

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year.

The co-operation of food traders in improving the hygienic handling and storage of food was appreciated, but further improvements are desirable and progress is very dependent upon public opinion.

(b) Food Premises Improvements

Type of Food Premises	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities		Food Storage Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash Hand Notices Displayed	Totals
						Wash-hand Basins	Sinks							
Fish Shops & Fish Fryers	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Greengrocers ..	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Meat Shops ..	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Public Houses & Inns	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	1	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	13

(c) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse was licensed by the Council and used by a local butcher during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on three days per week. This regular slaughtering of animals at fixed times on fixed days was approved by the Council.

All animals slaughtered in the District were inspected in accordance with statutory requirements for fitness of the meat and offal for human consumption and, if passed, officially stamped before leaving the slaughterhouse. In addition to being responsible for meat inspection in slaughterhouses Public Health Inspectors also ensured that proper standards of hygiene were maintained and that animals were handled humanely.

No specimens were submitted to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for examination.

Charges for meat inspection of 2/6 per bovine animal, 9d. per calf or pig, and 6d. per sheep, lamb or goat remained in force.

Details of meat inspection carried out by Public Health Inspectors at the slaughterhouse are given in the following table:—

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	337	0	1	860	480	0
No. Inspected	337	0	1	860	480	0
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	0	0	1	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	43	0	1	2	16	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12.76	0	100	0.23	3.33	0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	6	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	0	0	0	0	1.25	0
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	1	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally con- demned	0	0	0	0	0	0

Licensed Slaughtermen: 7

(d) Poultry Inspection at Poultry Processing Premises

There were no Poultry Processing premises within the District.

(e) Milk and Dairies

The Council remained responsible for the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the supervision of dairy farms. Dealers' licenses were granted by the Essex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and permitted sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority.

Bacteriological milk sampling, and also sampling for biological examination for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus was carried out by the Essex County Council. No herds with brucella abortus infection were notified by the County Council and no samples for brucella abortus were taken by your Public Health Inspectors.

Seven inspections were made during the year of the five registered dairy premises.

(f) Liquid Egg Processing Premises

There were no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the District, and no samples of liquid egg were submitted for the prescribed test.

(g) Ice Cream

There were no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but 21 premises were registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

No samples of ice cream and ice lollies were taken for bacteriological examination on account of the inability to obtain supplies of refrigerant locally.

(h) General

Only one complaint was received during the year regarding unfit food, food handlers' unhygienic practices or uncleanly food premises, as follows:—

Food	Complaint
Iced Bun	Unpleasant smell

A detailed investigation was carried out and appropriate informal action taken. Progress, however, is hindered by public apathy and willingness to accept lower than desirable standards.

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc.

(i) Unsound Food

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food. The following commodities were voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	423 lbs.
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80 lbs.
Tinned Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29 lbs.
Other Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	173 lbs.
Total ..								<u>708 lbs.</u>

This condemned food was stained and disposed of either by burial in deep refuse pits or by sterilisation at licensed Waste Food Boiling Premises.

No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

2. WORKING CONDITIONS

The control of the health and welfare aspects of working conditions by Public Health Inspectors under the provisions of Factories Acts, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, etc., has continued to receive increasing attention in recent years, and the following statistical details show continued improvement.

(a) Factories

(1) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	2	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	48	6	2	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	0	0	0	0
Totals	66	8	2	0

(2) Defects Found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	1	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	2	1	0	0	0

(3) Outworkers

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134			
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

(b) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

During the year 14 new premises were registered, and all received a general inspection. Eight informal notices were served in respect of contraventions found and 4 informal notices were complied with.

It is inevitable that there were, and will continue to be, numerous contraventions revealed by routine inspections but most of the infringements and deficiencies were capable of easy and inexpensive remedy. Such matters as the provision of thermometers, first aid boxes, the cleanliness and maintenance of sanitary accommodation and of floors, passages and stairs, seem continually to be neglected. These infringements could so easily be avoided by simple and systematic attention by occupiers.

One non-fatal accident was reported involving a fall by an office worker. No applications were received for exemption from the provisions relating to room space for employees, temperature, sanitary conveniences and running water supply to washing facilities.

The following tables give details of:—

- (1) Premises registered and inspections.
- (2) Contraventions.
- (3) Improvements following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

TABLE 1 PREMISES REGISTERED AND INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Premises registered during year	Registered premises at end of year	Registered premises general inspection	Total visits of all kinds	Persons Employed			
					Male		Female	
					Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.	Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.
Offices	5	29	9	48	7	69	7	125
Retail Shops	5	70	12	127	6	72	9	134
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	6	3	19	0	15	0	7
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	2	4	1	6	0	6	0	9
Fuel Storage Depots	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0
Totals ..	14	110	25	201	13	166	16	275

(c) Miscellaneous

Premises	No. in District	Inspections
Places of Entertainment	18	0
Schools	7	0

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops)	0
Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation	0

3. AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution, an environmental condition of major importance, was not a matter subject to serious local complaint, and pressure of other work did not permit the time and effort warranted to be devoted to this duty.

The Council continued to co-operate in the National Survey of Atmospheric Pollution and daily volumetric measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere were taken and the results forwarded monthly to the Department of Trade and Industry.

(a) New Furnace and Chimney Installations

(1)	Notices submitted with plans and specifications of proposals to install furnaces and chimneys to which the Clean Air Act applies. .	0
(2)	Approvals granted of such plans and specifications for the purposes of the Clean Air Act	0

The insistence on adequate chimney heights plays an important part in keeping ground level pollution from industrial sources to an acceptable level. Where an installation uses a fuel which contains sulphur, the height of the stack is based on the sulphur dioxide emission and related also to the character of the district in which the plant is sited and the type of building to which it is attached. The increasing use of gas, which contains little or no sulphur, or liquified petroleum gas fuels, has posed problems in deciding how high stacks from such plant should be.

(b) Air Pollution Nuisances

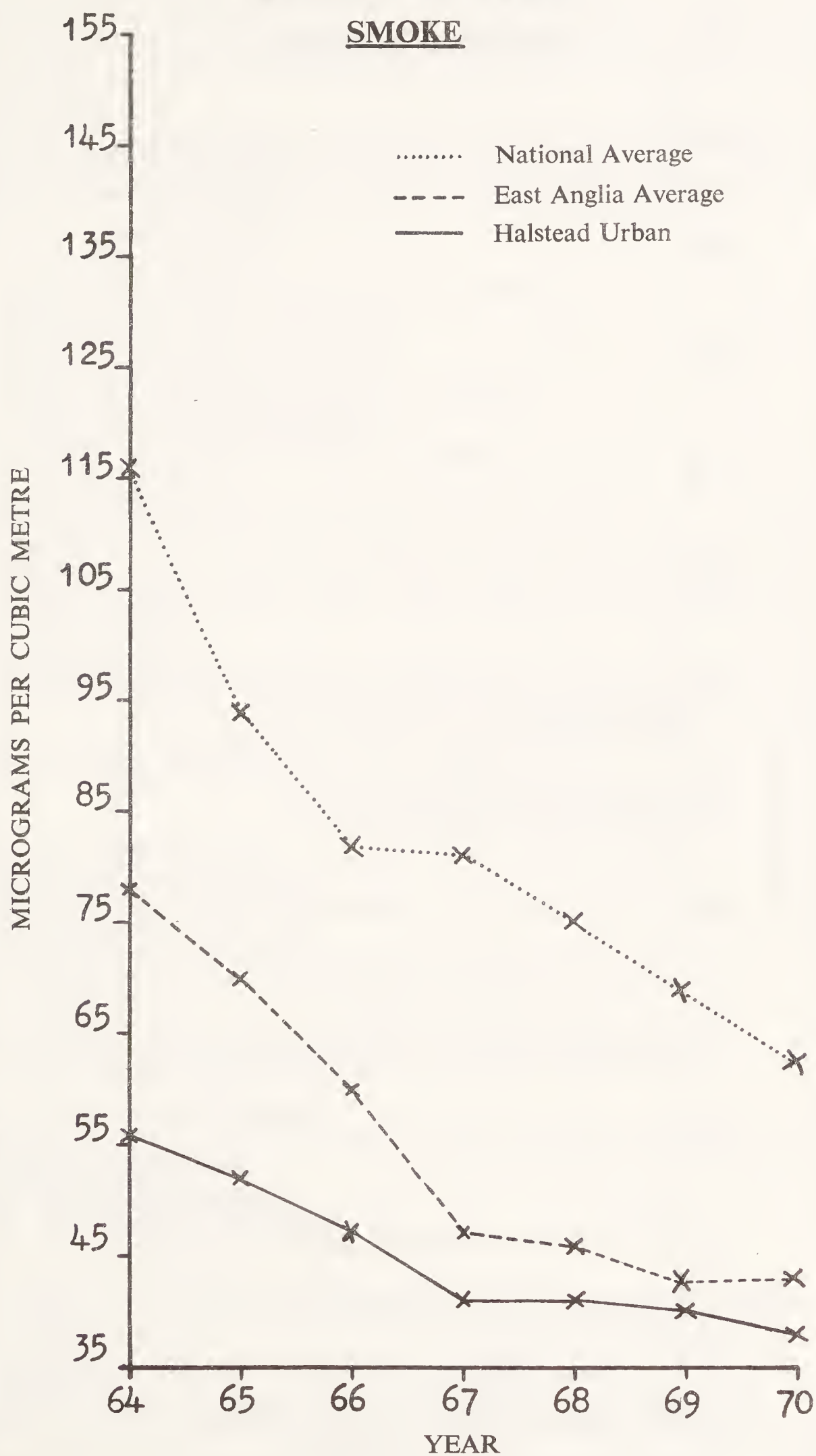
(1)	Investigations	13
(2)	Confirmed	3
(3)	Abated	2

Domestic smoke is a particularly unpleasant form of air pollution because it occurs mainly during the colder months when atmospheric conditions often tend to keep it down at ground level, because it issues from chimneys at a low level, at a low velocity and at a low temperature and because it has a relatively high tar content. Fortunately it is a form of pollution which is easily dealt with, given the will to do it and the necessary money for the conversion of coal burning appliances to those which burn smokeless fuel or use other forms of energy. There are no real technical problems involved in putting into operation domestic smoke control and the benefits of doing this have been shown to be substantial.

The following graphs show that the air pollution in Halstead in recent years has compared favourably with that of East Anglia and the country as a whole. They show a progressive diminution in smoke pollution and a steady with slight increase in Sulphur Dioxide pollution. This is due to the combined effects of increased use of smokeless fuel appliances, and increased fuel consumption including smokeless fuels, by industrial and domestic heating and other improvements.

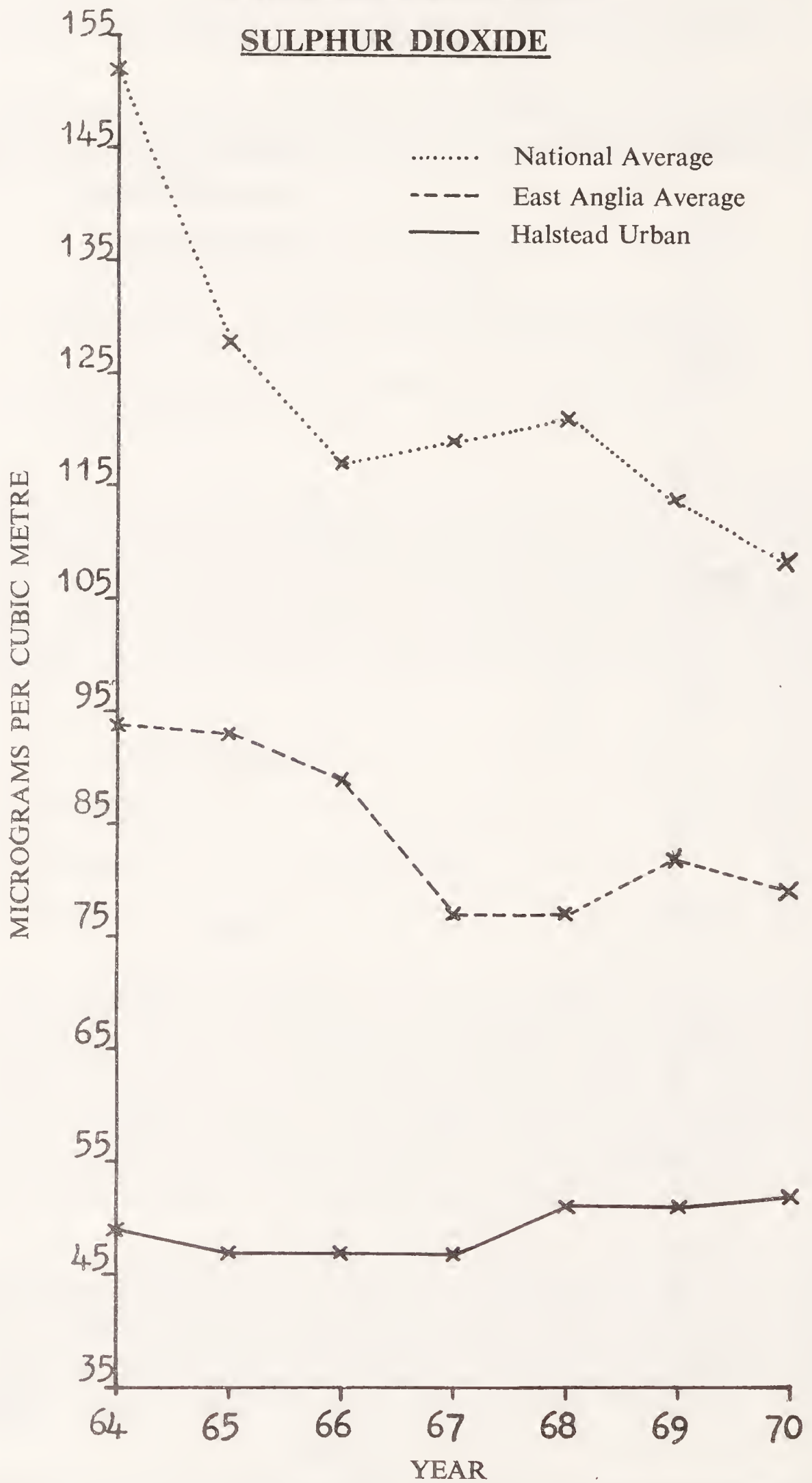
AIR POLLUTION 1970

SMOKE



AIR POLLUTION 1970

SULPHUR DIOXIDE



4. HOUSING

Housing in its many aspects again had priority in the work of your Public Health Inspectors. The encouragement of improved housing standards through financial grants and loans, the prevention of deterioration in the condition of older houses through routine inspection and enforcement action concerning disrepair, and the reconstruction or demolition of condemned houses through slum clearance proposals, all helped in making a major contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the District's social as well as environmental health conditions.

Public Health Inspectors' housing duties, however, do present many problems, and being charged with many onerous tasks, often must bear the odium for actions which they are carrying out on instructions from central government. No problem causes more heartache and gives a worse public image than slum clearance.

(a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	..	..	82
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded	..	..	22
(3)	Inspections regarding reconditioning	..	..	32
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding	..	..	0
(5)	Inspections regarding Qualification Certificates	..	..	1
(6)	Inspections of moveable dwellings	..	..	1
(7)	Miscellaneous housing inspections	..	..	98
(8)	Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies	..		0

(b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	7
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Housing Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0

(c) Unfit Houses

(1)	Houses officially reported Unfit to Council under Housing Act	..		0
(2)	(a) Undertakings accepted (i) to make fit for human habitation..			0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation..			0
	(b) Undertakings cancelled	..	..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1970)			
	(i) to make fit for human habitation..			0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation..			2
(3)	(a) Closing Orders made	..	..	1
	(b) Closing Orders determined	..	..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (Dec. 1970)			10
(4)	(a) Demolition Orders made	..	..	0
	(b) Demolition Orders revoked	..	..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec. 1970)	..	..	25
(5)	(a) Houses made subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders	..		0
	(b) Accumulated total of houses subject to outstanding Compulsory Purchase Orders (Dec. 1970)	..	..	0

(d) Slum Clearance Proposals

Details of the Council's ten years' Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables which show:—

- (1) the approved proposals,
- (2) the year-by-year progress made,
- (3) the position at 31st December, 1970.

(1)	
Years	Total houses in District Unfit for Human Habitation
1956-65	132
1966-75	103
	(Including 58 remaining from 1956-65 proposals)

(2)

Year	Houses Reported Unfit	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Subject to Clearance Orders	Houses Made Subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished
1956	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
1957	36	13	16	10	0	0	0	3
1958	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	11
1959	23	0	0	4	18	0	6	16
1960	46	0	5	2	0	0	2	7
1961	22	0	2	16	0	0	1	16
1962	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	7
1963	5	0	4	5	0	24	0	4
1964	2	0	1	9	0	0	0	15
1965	7	0	0	0	0	8	2	9
1966	8	0	1	9	0	0	0	22
1967	6	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
1968	8	0	1	11	0	0	2	19
1969	16	1	1	9	0	0	0	7
1970	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
Totals	195	17	34	84	18	32	14	152

(3)

Unfit Houses Reported to Council and made subject to							Unfit Houses awaiting Report to Council
Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Clearance Orders	Compulsory Purchase Orders	Action Pending		
					Deferred by Council	Other	
2	10	25	0	0	0	0	18
1	5	12	0	0	Total Houses Occupied 18		

The securing of early re-housing of families living in unfit dwellings, and the reconditioning or demolition of these houses, is a problem which should be overcome with the very minimum further delay.

(e) Housing Improvements

(1) Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.. .. .	21
(2) Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard" ..	15
(3) Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices	0
(4) Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices ..	0
(5) Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders ..	0
(6) Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act	9
(7) Houses in Clearance Areas demolished	0

(f) Housing Improvement Grants

(1) Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants	5
(2) Discretionary Improvement Grants approved.. .. .	5
(3) Schemes completed	4

Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following table:—

Year	Applications			Completions	
	Received	Approved	Grant Approved	No.	Grant Paid
1949 to 1954	0	0	—	0	—
1955	14	7	£1,231 12 10	6	£1,036 12 4
1956	0	0	—	1	£195 0 6
1957	0	0	—	0	—
1958	0	0	—	0	—
1959	5	5	£689 0 0	2	£240 0 0
1960	9	9	£1,649 0 0	5	£759 0 0
1961	4	4	£832 0 0	6	£1,171 0 0
1962	3	3	£620 0 0	4	£649 0 0
1963	4	4	£852 0 0	5	£1,072 0 0
1964	2	2	£360 0 0	1	£175 0 0
1965	4	4	£825 0 0	2	£403 0 0
1966	1	1	£214 0 0	5	£1,039 0 0
1967	2	2	£346 0 0	0	—
1968	6	6	£1,024 0 0	5	£841 0 0
1969	5	5	£2,043 0 0	4	£766 0 0
1970	5	5	£1,632 0 0	4	£1,604 0 0
Totals	64	57	£12,317 12 10	50	£9,950 12 10

(4) Applications for Standard Improvement Grants	16
(5) Standard Improvement Grants approved	16
(6) Schemes completed	11

Details regarding Standard Improvement Grants are given in the following table:—

Year	Applications			Completions		
	Received	Approved	Maximum Grant Approved	No.	Amount of Standard Grant	
					Maximum Approved	Actual Paid
1959	5	5	£570	0	—	—
1960	11	11	£1,370	9	£1,050	£693 16 6
1961	10	10	£1,065	15	£1,765	£1,254 1 3
1962	10	10	£1,520	4	£610	£478 3 5
1963	6	6	£910	5	£675	£604 16 7
1964	8	8	£1,190	6	£880	£698 9 2
1965	12	12	£1,660	6	£910	£727 13 4
1966	7	7	£980	11	£1,560	£1,350 6 3
1967	9	9	£1,155	10	£1,230	£1,164 7 11
1968	12	12	£1,742	8	£1,160	£1,103 7 11
1969	7	7	£1,115	4	£540	£490 2 2
1970	16	16	£2,460	11	£1,652	£1,394 3 8
Totals	113	113	£15,737	89	£12,032	£9,959 8 2

(7) Houses subject to Grants were occupied as follows:—

Year	Discretionary Improvement Grants			Standard Improvement Grants		
	Owner	Tenant	Total	Owner	Tenant	Total
1949 to						
1954	0	0	0			
1955	3	4	7			
1956	0	0	0			
1957	0	0	0			
1958	0	0	0			
1959	3	2	5	4	1	5
1960	1	8	9	9	2	11
1961	4	0	4	9	1	10
1962	2	1	3	8	2	10
1963	1	3	4	4	2	6
1964	1	1	2	7	1	8
1965	0	4	4	6	6	12
1966	0	1	1	4	3	7
1967	0	2	2	4	5	9
1968	1	5	6	7	5	12
1969	1	4	5	7	0	7
1970	2	3	5	11	5	16
Totals	19	38	57	80	33	113

(8) Loans made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses .. 0

(g) Rent of Dwellings—Qualification Certificates

(1) Applications for Qualifications Certificates (where standard amenities lacking)	1
(2) Certificates of Provisional Approval issued	1
(3) Qualification Certificates issued (where standard amenities lacking)..	0
(4) Applications for Qualification Certificates (where standard amenities already provided)	0
(5) Qualification Certificates issued (where standard amenities already provided)	0

(h) Housing Overcrowding

(1)	Overcrowded houses existing December, 1969	..	..	..	0
(2)	Overcrowded houses found during 1970	..	..	..	0
(3)	Overcrowded houses relieved during 1970	..	..	..	0
(4)	Overcrowded houses existing December, 1970	..	..	..	0

(i) Caravan Sites

There were two individual caravan site licences in force in the District.
No Local Authority caravan sites have been provided in the District.

(i) Miscellaneous Housing Matters

During the year 38 houses were built by private enterprise. No houses, flats or bungalows were built by the Council. Seventeen existing Council houses were improved to present day standards of amenity by the provision of bathrooms, hot water supplies, etc.

No houses were sold by the Council to tenants.

Houses owned by the Council at the end of the year were:—(from information supplied by the Council's Housing Officer)

Pre-war.	Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	342
Post-war.	Houses and Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	464
	Flats and Flatlets ¹	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	246
	(1 block of 24, 1 block of 22, 2 blocks of 16, 1 block of 14, 5 blocks of 12, 7 blocks of 8, 6 blocks of 6, 1 block of 2)								

There were no registered Common Lodging Houses nor unsatisfactory Houses in Multiple Occupation in the District.

5. NOISE

Recent years have seen an increasing public awareness of the problem of noise, an awareness accelerated by the Report of the Committee on the Problem of Noise under the Chairmanship of Sir Alan Wilson, F.R.S. Whether or not one regards noise as a danger to health depends on the definition which is placed on health. Using that suggested by the World Health Organisation as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well being, and not merely an absence of disease and infirmity” health is certainly affected by many kinds of noise. It definitely causes a great deal of general dissatisfaction if it is above a certain level. The discomforts and annoyances include the difficulty of getting to sleep and the possibility of being awakened, interference with listening to the radio or the entertainment of visitors.

Although the Council may take formal action under the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 and part 111 of the Public Health, Act 1936 the cumbersome and lengthy procedure is often difficult to enforce.

(a) Noise Nuisances

(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
(2)	Confirmed ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

6. WASTE MATTERS

(a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. Following the completion of the Langley Mill Sewage Disposal Works extension in 1969 there remained only the provision of a new length of surface water sewer from Kings Road/Parsonage Street corner to the level crossing. This scheme had not been commenced at the end of the year but is now to be carried out in a revised position following the realignment of Parsonage Street.

No inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers following complaints.

(b) Drainage

(1) Drainage investigations and advisory visits	..	..	..	..	3
(2) Drainage inspections	..	..	..	..	8
(3) Inspections of ditches, water courses, etc.	..	..	..	..	2
(4) Drainage tests	..	..	..	..	5
(5) Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	1
(6) Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	0

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors two drains were reconstructed.

(c) Sanitary Fittings and Conveniences

There is a need in the town for improvement of the existing public conveniences, and also for the provision of additional ones.

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Surveyor. The Council possessed one refuse collecting vehicle which removed house refuse at weekly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on a refuse dump at Sible Hedingham in the Halstead Rural District.

During the year the Council agreed to collect Trade Refuse only on payment of a charge of £2 10s. 0d. per bin per year.

The use of disposable sack refuse collection is to be installed as an experiment at the proposed Nether Priors Kitchen Garden Development Scheme for 58 dwellings.

Four inspections of the refuse dump and 22 inspections regarding refuse accumulations and storage were made. Four informal notices were served regarding provision of dustbins.

7. PESTS

Pest control, a routine environmental health duty which may easily be overlooked, although it has been given more prominence nationally recently, and the very wide variety of pests which it is necessary for your Public Health Inspectors to identify, advise upon regarding disinfestation measures, and supply appropriate rodenticides, pesticides and insecticides, etc., are detailed.

The Council's free disinfestation services have resulted in early notification of infestations and the consequent early disinfestation work has prevented the previous more serious and widespread infestations.

(a) Insect Pests

The District continued to be comparatively free from insect pest infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestation. Twenty inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors regarding insect pests, and 7 premises were disinfested. Supplies of pesticides, insecticides, etc., were also issued free to private householders. Pests dealt with included cockroaches, flies, ants, beetles, fleas, mosquitoes, wasps, mites, spider mites, silver fish, etc. Among the more unusual insect infestations dealt with following complaint was one of a severe infestation of a newly constructed house by Psocids (*Liposceles* sp.) commonly known as Book Lice of which a few species live in houses and thrive on fungi or moulds often found in new houses before plasterwork has properly dried out. Treatment included additional heating and ventilation and insecticidal powder treatment of adult insects. No major insect pest infestation occurred at the Council's refuse dump, but it was dusted with insecticidal powder as a routine measure.

The Council agreed to provide a free service for the destruction of wasps' nests at the discretion of the Public Health Officer with effect from October.

(b) Rodent Control

The Council operated a rat and mouse disinfestation service for occupiers of business premises on a basis of repayment of the cost of time, transport and materials, and for occupiers of domestic premises a free service at the discretion of the Public Health Officer. Poison bait was also issued free to private householders.

There was no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse dump, etc., were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by Public Health Inspectors and part-time Rodent Operator during the year were:—

No.	Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in District ..	3,648	10
2a.	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	51	0
2b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	32	0
	(ii) Mice	19	0
3a.	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	498	3
3b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	2	0
	(ii) Mice	0	0

Sewers

4.	No sewers were found to be infested by rats during the year.
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The Council's rodent control service treated 62 infestations, 41 rats and 21 mice at non-agricultural premises, and 3 rat infestations at Council premises, sewerage works, refuse dump, etc.

No informal notices were served in respect of rat infestations. One non-agricultural premise was rat disinfested by private persons or contractors following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

No “Block Control” schemes were carried out.

There was no evidence of Warfarin-resistant rats in the District during the year.

(c) **Miscellaneous Pests**

Advice was given in response to enquiries regarding infestations of bats, squirrels, pigeons, etc.

8. WATER

The water supply of the area was generally satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity. The supply derived from the Colchester and District Water Board was chlorinated but not treated by softening and had no plumbo-solvent action. As a routine procedure samples were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination monthly. Samples for chemical analysis were taken also.

The water consumption in the District from public piped mains supplies was estimated to be 41·8 gallons per head per day by the Colchester and District Water Board Chief Engineer.

During the year 56 premises were connected to the water mains and the following work was carried out by Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	..	..	..	15
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies	..	..		0
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies	..	..		4
(d) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table	..	..	..	13

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	13	13	0
Private Water Mains	0	0	0
Public Wells, etc.	0	0	0
Private Wells, etc.	0	0	0
Totals ..	13	13	0

(e) Samples of water examined for Chlorine content : 7

A typical Chemical Analysis of the Public Mains Water Supply is given in the following table:—

Examination For	Parts per million	Examination For	Parts per million
Turbidity	Less than 3	Hardness: Carbonate (Temporary)	250
Colour	3	Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	45
Odour	Nil	Nitrate Nitrogen ..	0.2
pH	7.4		Less than 0.01
Free Carbon Dioxide ..	22	Nitrite Nitrogen ..	0.03
Electric Conductivity ..	730	Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	0.01
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C.	490	Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.10
Chlorine present as Chloride	73	Oxygen Absorbed ..	Varies
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	250	Residual Chlorine ..	0-0.22
Hardness: Total	295	Metals: Iron	0.06
		Zinc	Absent
		Copper, Lead, ..	Absent
		Manganese, etc.	0.8
		Fluoride	

Public Swimming Baths

The Council’s public swimming baths were again used during April to September, each week from Thursday to Tuesday, being emptied Tuesday evenings and filled Wednesdays with water from the Colchester and District Water Board mains. Hand chlorination was carried out and the use of an algaecide was continued with success, to secure improved clarity and purification, and to facilitate cleansing. As a routine procedure samples of the baths water during use were examined for estimation of free and residual chlorine content and pH value, by your Public Health Inspectors, and samples were submitted for laboratory chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

During the open season 44 visits were made. Twenty-two samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and found to be suitable for bathing purposes. Four samples taken in April, May, July and August failed to attain a high bacteriological standard.

Twenty-two samples were also taken for chemical analysis and 4 samples taken in April, May, July and August failed to attain the high standard of clarity, due partly to iron content, though the turbidity was not excessive.

Twenty samples were also examined for free and residual chlorine and pH value, and all were satisfactory.

Modernisation proposals involving recirculation, filtration and chlorination plant and heating apparatus were approved by the Council and the work is proposed to be carried out in early 1971.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

(a) Effluvia Nuisances									
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

(b) Keeping of Animals and Poultry Nuisances									
(1)	Investigations	3
(2)	Confirmed	1
(3)	Abated	0
(c) Notifiable Diseases									
(1)	Investigations	0
(2)	Premises Disinfected	0
(d) Animal Boarding Establishments									
(1)	Licences granted	0
(2)	Inspections	0
(e) Pet Shops									
(1)	Licences granted	3
(2)	Inspections	7
(f) Rag Flock Stores									
(1)	Licences granted	0
(2)	Inspections	0
(g) Waste Food Boiling Premises									
(1)	Licences granted	0
(2)	Inspections	0
(h) Local Land Charges									
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(i) Plans									
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It is emphasised how important it is that plans should be examined by Public Health Inspectors to avoid works being carried out in accordance with Planning Permissions and Building Regulation Approvals which contravene statutory requirements administered through Public Health Inspectors, especially at food premises, houses, places of employment, shops, factories, etc. Prior consultation with Public Health Inspectors is also particularly important especially when Planning Permissions are sought for such projects as “factory farming” and industrial processes producing noxious fumes, waste products or excessive noise.

(j) Special Reports

One special report was submitted to the Council by the Public Health Officer during the year on “Insect Pests—Wasp Nest Destruction”.

(k) Training of Public Health Workers

Several students (Public Health workers, Teachers, etc.) were conducted on inspection visits of places of public health interest throughout the District.

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